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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,002	08/20/2003	Masahiko Oikawa	241758US2	4857

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EXAMINER	
DHINGRA, PAWANDEEP	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/14/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,002	OIKAWA, MASAHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PAWANDEEP S. DHINGRA	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 November 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *8/15/2007*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment after non-final rejection filed on 11/02/2007.
- Claims 8-37 have been cancelled.
- Claims 1-7 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendments, filed 11/02/2007 have been entered and fully considered. In light of the applicant's amendments, the rejection(s) have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection(s) have been made, and the applicant's arguments have been rendered moot.

Examiner Notes

Examiner cites particular paragraphs, columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Doi, US 6,192,202 in view of Koike et al., JP 08-116429.

Re claim 1, Doi discloses an image forming system (see figure 5) comprising: a first image forming apparatus (see element 41 in figure 5), and a second image forming apparatus (see element 40 in figure 5) that are connected to each other via a communication line (see image data interface, cable 28 in figure 5), wherein the first image forming apparatus includes: an image reading unit (i.e. scanner unit, figure 2) configured to read image data from a document (see column 3, lines 60-61, note that each image forming apparatus has a image reading unit configured to read image data from a document), and the second image forming apparatus includes an image storing unit (see image data management unit, figure 2) configured to store the image data (see column 3, lines 61-63) (note that each image forming apparatus has a image reading unit and storage unit as shown in figure 2 and are connected together via a external controller, which controls both the apparatuses, see column 1, line 11-column 2, line 60).

Doi fails to explicitly disclose the second image forming apparatus includes an image storing unit configured to store the image data read using the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus; and a reading controller configured to control the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus to read the image data, and control the image storing unit to store the image data read using the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus in the image storing unit.

However, Koike teaches the second image forming apparatus (see figure 17) includes an image storing unit (see memory unit 104a, paragraph 73) configured to store the image data read using the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus (see paragraphs 71-118); and a reading controller (system controller 101) configured to control the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus to read the image data (see paragraphs 71-118), and control the image storing unit to store the image data read using the image reading unit of the first image forming apparatus in the image storing unit (see paragraphs 71-118).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify the network copying apparatus as disclosed by Doi with the network copying system as taught by Koike for the benefit of having a system where "print operation can be performed for the manuscript which divided all the manuscripts into some DFs, set them, and was divided and set to each DF with one printer, and it is effective in the ability to raise operativity and working efficiency" as taught by Koike at paragraph 155.

Re claim 2, Doi further discloses the first image forming apparatus further includes an automatic document feeder that feeds a plurality of documents to the image reading unit one by one (see column 3, lines 17-21; lines 45-51), and the reading controller (i.e. central control unit) controls an operation of the automatic document feeder (see column 3, lines 55-65, note that *"the image forming apparatus 10 comprises a central control unit 21 for controlling the entirety of the apparatus"*).

Re claim 3, Doi further discloses the second image forming apparatus (element 40 or master 40, figure 5) further includes a first image forming controller (CPU 70 of external controller 39) that reads the image data from the image storing unit, transmits the image data to the first image forming apparatus (element 41 or slave 41, figure 5) (see column 6, lines 1-16, note that the central control unit of master 40 transmits the image data to CPU 70 of the external controller 39, the CPU 70 reads the image data from the storing unit and transmits the set amount of data to the slave 41), and controls the first image forming apparatus to form an image based on the image data (see column 6, lines 17-41); and a second image forming controller (CPU 70 of external controller 39) that reads the image data from the image storing unit, transmits the image data to the second image forming apparatus (see column 6, lines 17-65, note that after allocating data to the slave, the CPU 70 distributes the remainder of the data to the master), and controls the second image forming apparatus to form an image based on the image data (see column 5, line 34-column 6, line 65).

Re claim 4, Doi further discloses the first image forming apparatus further includes: a first data expansion unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that expands

compressed image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that decompression circuit is used for again expanding the compressed image data), the second image forming apparatus further includes: a data compression unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that compresses image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that *"the image data management unit 23 includes a compression/decompression circuit 23a for compressing/decompressing image data") (Also note that both the first and second image forming apparatuses have the very same structure as shown in figure 2, see column 5, lines 26-28)*; and a second data expansion unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that expand compressed image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that *"the image data management unit 23 includes a compression/decompression circuit 23a for compressing/decompressing image data".* Hence the decompression circuit of management unit is used for again expanding the compressed image data), the reading controller (i.e. central control unit, see figure 2) controls the data compression unit to compress the image data acquired from the first image forming apparatus before storing the image data in the image storing unit (see column 6, lines 1-16), and the first image forming controller and the second image forming controller include a first expansion controller (central control unit for first image forming apparatus, see figure 2) and second expansion controller (central control unit for second image forming apparatus, see figure 2) (*note that both the first and second image forming apparatuses have the very same structure as shown in figure 2, see column 5, lines 26-28)* that controls the first data expansion unit and the second data expansion unit to expand the compressed image data, respectively (see column 6, lines

1-16, and column 3, lines 55-65, note that central control unit controls the entirety of the image forming apparatus including the image data management unit (data expansion/compression unit).

Re claim 5, Doi further discloses the first expansion controller controls the first data expansion unit to expand the compressed image data transferred from the second image forming apparatus to the first image forming apparatus (see column 6, lines 1-16, and column 3, lines 55-65, note that the image data in the compressed form is transferred from the master to slave image forming apparatus, and once the compressed data is received by the slave apparatus it is decompressed by the compression/decompression circuit of the image data management unit. Also note that central control unit controls the entirety of the image forming apparatus including the image data management unit).

Re claim 7, Doi further discloses the image storing unit is a hard disk drive (see element 23 in figure 2; element 73 in figure 6; column 3, line 65-column 4, line 3).

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Doi, US 6,192,202 in view of Koike et al., JP 08-116429 further in view of Nagasawa et al., US 6384928.

Re claim 6, Doi fails to disclose the communication line is based on a communication interface conforming the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 1394 standard.

However, Nagasawa discloses the communication line is based on a communication interface conforming the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 1394 standard (see figure 2, column 1, lines 13-16; column 3, lines 12-23; column 4, lines 10-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify the communication line as disclosed by Doi to include the IEEE 1394 standard serial bus as taught by Nagasawa for the benefit of having a faster and high performance communication line as taught by Nagasawa at column 1, lines 13-27.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAWANDEEP S. DHINGRA whose telephone number is (571)270-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625